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Letter dated 22 December 2017 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, I have the honour to attach herewith two documents containing, respectively, a report on the activities and achievements of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate during the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2017 (annex I) and a note by the Executive Director of the Executive Directorate containing observations and recommendations on the Directorate's future work (annex II).

The documents are submitted for the consideration of the Council within the framework of its forthcoming review of the mandate of the Executive Directorate, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 2129 (2013).

I would be grateful if this letter and its annexes could be brought to the attention of the members of the Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Amr Abdellatif **Aboulatta**
Chair
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

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Annex I

Report of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate on the activities and achievements of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Executive Directorate during the period 2014–2017

I. Introduction

1. The Security Council, in its resolution 2129 (2013), decided that the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate would continue to operate as a special political mission under the policy guidance of the Committee for the period ending 31 December 2017. The work programme of the Committee for 2017 (S/2017/176, enclosure) provides that on the basis of information provided by the Executive Directorate, the Committee will submit to the Security Council a report on the Executive Directorate's work for consideration by the Council in the context of the renewal of the mandate of the Executive Directorate and that, in accordance with Council resolution 2129 (2013), the report will be submitted to the Council prior to the expiration of the Executive Directorate's mandate on 31 December 2017.

2. The present report describes the activities and achievements of the Committee and the Executive Directorate during the period 2014–2017, with a particular focus on the elements specifically identified in resolution 2129 (2013) and subsequent resolutions and decisions of the Council.

3. Michèle Coninsx of Belgium was appointed Executive Director of the Executive Directorate on 11 August 2017 and assumed her duties on 2 November 2017. Ms. Coninsx succeeded Jean-Paul Laborde of France, who served as Executive Director from 22 July 2013 to 31 July 2017.

4. The Executive Directorate trusts that the present report will be of assistance to the Committee in its work to advise the Council within the framework of the renewal of the mandate of the Directorate.

II. Overview of the global terrorism threat and the response of Member States

5. Terrorism continues to pose a grave threat to international peace and security. Over recent years, the global security landscape has become significantly more complex, volatile and challenging, as terrorists and terrorist organizations and their affiliates and cells continue to adapt their tactics and methods. Member States continued to introduce measures to address those risks and challenges, but many continue to require technical assistance in their efforts to achieve effective implementation of the relevant Council resolutions on terrorism and the 19 international counter-terrorism instruments.

6. Since 2014, the emergence of new terrorist groups such as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) and the related foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon has significantly exacerbated existing political and security challenges in some of the world's most vulnerable regions. Even though travel by foreign terrorist fighters to conflict zones is not a new phenomenon, the recent flow of such fighters to Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic was unprecedented. The global threat has been further compounded by the return of foreign terrorist fighters to their countries of origin or residence and their relocation to third States.

7. Terrorist groups have increasingly urged their supporters to carry out attacks in the name of the group, wherever they are located and using any means available to

them. Most such attacks are directed at poorly protected civilian targets (so-called soft targets). ISIL, in particular, has developed a model by which "lone" attackers, who may be completely unknown to the authorities, can be directly guided and instructed by operatives using encrypted messaging services. This has resulted in the expansion of the terrorist threat to previously less affected areas, as well as an increase in the number of terrorist plots resulting in fatalities. Despite this trend towards online radicalization and recruitment, however, the continued threat posed by offline activity should not be minimized.

8. In addition to calling for terrorist attacks on an international scale, terrorist organizations, including ISIL and Al-Qaida, have compensated for their territorial losses by expanding their presence to new areas. The links between terrorism and transnational organized crime have exacerbated conflicts, increased opportunities for smuggling and trafficking in weapons, illicit goods and human beings, and expanded opportunities for terrorism financing. Terrorist organizations have also continued to recruit, operationalize and victimize women and children, including by using them as fighters.

9. Member States have made considerable progress in their efforts to review, amend and update their national legislation so as to strengthen their capacities to bring terrorists to justice while protecting and promoting international law, in particular international human rights and humanitarian law. United Nations offices have provided States identified by the Executive Directorate as requiring technical assistance in this area with the training and resources required to ensure that their criminal justice systems are capable of handling complex cases relating to terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters. Nevertheless, legislative gaps remain in many parts of the world and global legislative disparities continue to impede international cooperation. Despite the challenges involved, some States have worked to strengthen international judicial and law enforcement cooperation by designating central authorities for mutual legal assistance and extradition, nominating focal points that operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on matters relating to foreign terrorist fighters, or downgrading intelligence for use by frontline officers and sharing intelligence, as appropriate. Some States have made notable progress in their efforts to develop and implement comprehensive and effective prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies. Within the framework of their anti-money-laundering and counter-financing of terrorism regimes, many States are taking steps to strengthen their financial investigation capacity and to ensure that law enforcement agencies are provided with adequate and timely access to national and international information-sharing mechanisms.

10. More and more States are taking a holistic approach, by developing strategies and policies that address the conditions conducive to terrorism and by taking preventive measures that involve many sectors of society. However, the adoption of such an approach presents a new set of challenges. The need to counter incitement and violent extremism and to take full account of the rights of victims of terrorism presents further challenges. The relationship between security and development (as reflected, for example, in concerns over the protection of tourist infrastructure) also requires increased attention. Lastly, the international obligation to ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law in countering terrorism continues to present challenges. In particular, States are confronted with decisions regarding how to safeguard their societies within the framework provided by international human rights law and, where special counter-terrorism measures are contemplated, how to ensure that they are undertaken in strict compliance with the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality, and without discrimination.

III. Monitoring, promoting and facilitating implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 2178 (2014)

A. Assessment of implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) by Member States

11. Assessment of counter-terrorism measures taken by Member States remains the primary tool of the Committee and the Executive Directorate in their efforts to monitor progress achieved at the national, regional and global levels in the implementation of the relevant Council resolutions. The assessment process, which consists of on-site assessment visits, consultation, constructive dialogue and analysis, facilitates the identification of remaining gaps, areas in which States may require technical assistance and good and effective practices.

B. Assessment visits to Member States on behalf of the Committee

12. During the period under review, the Executive Directorate conducted 53 visits to Member States in all five United Nations regional groups, bringing the total number of visits and follow-up visits conducted since 2005 to 136 and the total number of States visited to 98. The assessment visits enable the Directorate to gather information about the current threat level in the visited State and the measures taken to address it. They also help to strengthen coordination and collaboration at the national level by facilitating dialogue among key national stakeholders. During the period under review, the Directorate was able to assess implementation by Member States of recently adopted Council resolutions on terrorism, as well as to identify a number of new trends and common challenges.

13. The Executive Directorate continued to invite experts from a broad range of United Nations entities and international and regional organizations[1] to participate in the visits, with a view to enhancing the assessment of matters within their expertise and facilitating cooperation among key international stakeholders within the framework of delivery of technical assistance to counter terrorism.

14. The visits also enable the visited State to demonstrate its political will to engage in dialogue with the Committee, as well as its readiness to facilitate the Committee's assessment of its national counter-terrorism measures. The demonstration by Member States of political will also facilitates the subsequent implementation of the recommendations contained in the Committee's report of the visit, whether by the visited State, donor States or technical assistance providers, as well as the sharing of identified good and effective practices with other States.

[1] Including Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, Expert Group of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States, Economic Community of West African States, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Maritime Organization, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), International Organization for Migration, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, regional anti-terrorist structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, World Bank, World Customs Organization and Financial Action Task Force-style regional bodies.

C. Stocktaking of implementation by Member States of resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and successor resolutions

15. Interaction, dialogue and analysis are also central to the efforts of the Executive Directorate to monitor, promote and facilitate implementation by Member States of Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). This is especially the case in the absence of a scheduled visit or in the absence of consent to receive a visit. They also help to ensure sustained dialogue between the Committee and Member States, including on progress made in implementing the Committee's recommendations following the visit. The Committee's revised assessment tools (the overview of implementation assessment and the detailed implementation survey) continue to assist the Committee and the Directorate to maintain and strengthen their constructive dialogue with Member States and to provide a mechanism for inquiring about measures introduced pursuant to Council resolution 2178 (2014). These tools are designed to ensure thoroughness, consistency, transparency and even-handedness in the Committee's stocktaking process.

16. During the period from 1 September 2013 to 30 September 2017, the Committee approved 63 overview of implementation assessments and 63 detailed implementation surveys of implementation by Member States of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005).

17. In 2016, with a view to facilitating implementation by Member States of the asset-freezing provisions set forth in resolution 1373 (2001), particularly its provisions on third-party requests for freezing of assets, the Executive Directorate developed a database of contacts for national agencies responsible for handling such requests.

IV. Facilitation of technical assistance delivery

18. Facilitation of delivery of technical assistance is one of the core tasks assigned by the Security Council to the Committee and the Executive Directorate. In this regard, the Directorate has taken a number of steps to strengthen its facilitation efforts on the Committee's behalf, including: (a) according priority to States visited by the Committee, focusing on follow-up requests and arranging timely round tables with implementing partners and donors; (b) working with both long-standing and new implementing partners and donor States and organizations to facilitate the provision of assistance; (c) bringing the role of the Committee fully into play in making technical assistance referrals; (d) participating actively in the working groups of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and its Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism Initiative; (e) identifying common challenges and facilitating the delivery of regional or global technical assistance programmes to address them; (f) integrating the human rights and rule of law-based approach into all its activities; (g) establishing working relations with the Global Counterterrorism Forum; and (h) exploring further ways to engage with the private sector in support of efforts by donor Governments to deliver technical assistance.

19. Pursuant to the country visits, a number of technical assistance activities were facilitated in a range of thematic areas, including national counter-terrorism strategies, legislative drafting and implementation, countering violent extremism and countering the financing of terrorism. The assessment process was enhanced by the dissemination of technical assistance referrals to implementing entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and by engagement with international and regional partners concerning visit findings and follow-up action plans. Pursuant to Council resolution 2129 (2013), the Executive Directorate continued to explore

with other United Nations agencies and implementing partners ways to effectively assess the impact of donor-supported project activities linked to capacity-building and cooperation.

V. Regional activities of the Executive Directorate

A. Americas, the Caribbean, Asia, Oceania and the Pacific

20. Effective international and regional cooperation is essential to countering terrorism. In this regard, the Executive Directorate has notably worked to assist the Member States of South Asia[2] to develop new forms of regional cooperation in the area of criminal justice. Over the past nine years, more than 300 judges, prosecutors and police officers have gathered at regular workshops for practitioners to discuss emerging issues, trends and developments, the challenges they face in handling complex terrorism cases, and ways to strengthen their cooperation. The facilitation of opportunities for practitioners to share experiences, lessons learned and good practices is a crucial element of the Directorate's assessment work. It also informs the Directorate's work at the wider level, including within the framework of technical assistance delivery. In March 2016, the Directorate facilitated an open briefing delivered by the Committee to supreme court justices of South Asia on the theme "Terrorism, the rule of law and the role of judges". The open briefing was attended by the Supreme Court Justices of France, Israel, Lebanon, Tunisia and the United States of America, and marked the first occasion on which supreme court justices had attended a meeting at the United Nations. The Directorate also worked to strengthen interregional cooperation by facilitating engagement between law enforcement agencies of South-East Asia and of South-Eastern Europe. A notable outcome of this work was the signing of a memorandum of understanding by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Association of Heads of Police and the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center.

B. Europe, Middle East and Central Asia

21. In Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia, as in other regions, the Executive Directorate continued to encourage States to address the challenges posed by terrorism, including the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, in a comprehensive and integrated manner. In conducting assessment visits to the region, the Directorate regularly engaged with regional bodies, including the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. In its dialogue with Member States of the region, the Directorate continued to promote the adoption of comprehensive national counter-terrorism strategies and to compile and share related good practices.

22. One notable example in this regard was the follow-up to the Committee's 2015 assessment visit to Iraq. Following the visit, the Executive Directorate rapidly shared Iraq's priority technical assistance needs with implementing partners and donors at informal meetings held in New York and Baghdad. The Directorate also established a bilateral coordination mechanism with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) in Baghdad with a view to establishing a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, communications channel and enabling UNAMI to represent the Directorate with Iraq's counter-terrorism focal point in Baghdad. Subsequently, UNAMI itself appointed a counter-terrorism focal point in Baghdad to act as liaison with the

[2] Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Directorate. The informal meetings with implementing agencies and the donor community proved to be especially useful in expediting follow-up.

23. The Executive Directorate continued to strengthen its cooperation with the European Union and its various constituent entities, including the European External Action Service, the European Police Office (Europol) and Eurojust. In March 2017, the Directorate briefed the Committee on progress made by Western European States in implementing resolution 2178 (2014). It also played an influential role in supporting the drafting, adoption and entry into force of the 2015 Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, which transposes resolution 2178 (2014) into a regional treaty. In the area of border management, the Directorate's engagement with the European Parliament helped to galvanize the debate on passenger name records, culminating in the adoption of a directive on that topic in April 2016. In accordance with resolution 2129 (2013), the Directorate also advocated for the adoption of comprehensive national and regional counter-terrorism strategies and continued to compile and share good practices in that area.

24. In order to draw the Committee's attention to the specific challenges relating to countering terrorism and violent extremism in Central Asia, the Executive Directorate organized a meeting in June 2015 of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Committee with the representatives of all five Central Asian States. By the end of 2017, the Directorate will have conducted assessment visits to all five States of the region. These visits have yielded a wealth of information on the counter-terrorism capacities and technical assistance needs of these States. The Directorate remained actively engaged with the region to raise the awareness of Member States and to support their efforts to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters.

25. The Executive Directorate prepared regional assessment reports and recommended priority measures to be taken by Central Asian States, including on the development or revision of counter-terrorism and counter-extremism strategies based on a comprehensive approach which involves all relevant stakeholders and addresses conditions that are conducive to terrorism. With the support of the Eurasian Group on Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism, all five States have introduced criminal liability for terrorism financing in a manner that is largely compliant with the requirements of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and the relevant recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The five States have also made considerable progress in their efforts to comply with the requirement to freeze terrorist funds without delay. Mindful that all five States face challenges in tackling terrorist propaganda disseminated through information and communications technology (ICT), the Directorate facilitated several regional and national initiatives on that topic, including with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the ICT for Peace Foundation.

C. Africa

26. Acting on behalf of the Committee, the Executive Directorate conducted a number of country visits to Africa, including a visit to Mali within the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism Initiative for Mali aimed at assisting in the development of a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy, and a visit to the Lake Chad basin with the participation of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for West Africa and for Central Africa, aimed at assisting the States of the region to develop approaches to prosecuting, rehabilitating and reintegrating persons associated with Boko Haram in accordance with Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 2178 (2014) and 2349 (2017). Acting within the framework of the partnership among Nigeria, the

European Union, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Executive Directorate, the Directorate was able to provide support to Nigeria, including by facilitating in June 2017 a national inter-agency workshop on developing a prosecution strategy for terrorism-related cases involving persons associated with Boko Haram.

27. The Committee's advocacy visits to Benin, Burkina Faso and Ghana served to raise awareness of the potential terrorist threat, discuss the level of preparedness required to deal with the threat and identify immediate technical assistance needs to be brought to the attention of technical assistance providers. The findings of the visit to Burkina Faso were included in the report on the consultative mission of the inter-agency working group on sustaining peace in Burkina Faso, in which the Executive Directorate participated. The mission resulted in the development of an integrated strategic framework for sustaining peace in Burkina Faso.

28. During the period under review, the Executive Directorate participated in several inter-agency task forces on Africa, led by the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat. Participation in the task forces provided a valuable opportunity for the Directorate to promote the international counter-terrorism framework and engage the wider United Nations in its activities. The Directorate also joined the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration to provide strategic advice and substantive support for the revision of the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards, which includes guidance on the design and implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in contexts involving terrorist organizations listed by the Security Council.

VI. Global survey of the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001)

29. Pursuant to the request of the Council contained in its resolution 2129 (2013), the Executive Directorate updated the September 2011 global implementation survey of the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) by Member States (S/2011/463, annex). In accordance with paragraph 6 of the resolution, the updated survey was brought to the attention of the Committee and issued as a document of the Council on 20 January 2016 (S/2016/49, annex). The updated survey incorporates data gathered from a wide range of sources, including the Committee's visit reports, data gathered by the Directorate within the framework of its ongoing dialogue with States, regional workshops and information provided by United Nations entities and international, regional and subregional organizations.

30. The survey focuses on the major thematic areas addressed by the Council in resolution 1373 (2001), including counter-terrorism legislation, countering the financing of terrorism, law enforcement, border control and international cooperation. It identifies common challenges faced by States in all regions of the world, provides priority recommendations on ways to address them and assesses the progress made by States in implementing the resolution, as well as the remaining challenges. The survey also takes into account the protection of human rights, as required by the resolution. The sections on law enforcement and border control were expanded to reflect additional assessment criteria identified by experts from the Executive Directorate. The survey's findings notably assist the Directorate's implementing partners in their development of regional capacity-building programmes.

31. The updated survey identifies four key issues, trends and developments that have emerged since 2011: (a) the emergence of the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters; (b) the role of women in terrorism and the prevention of terrorism; (c) the particular problems associated with children and adolescents in the terrorist

environment; and (d) issues and trends associated with the increasing use by terrorists of ICT, including the Internet and social media, for terrorist purposes.

VII. Implementation of resolutions 1624 (2005) and 2354 (2017)

32. The Executive Directorate continued to pay close attention to implementation by Member States of Council resolution 1624 (2005) on prohibiting, preventing and countering incitement to commit acts of terrorism, within the framework of its assessment activities and in the context of several initiatives aimed at promoting the resolution's implementation. Mindful of the linkages between resolutions 1624 (2005) and 2178 (2014), the Executive Directorate also supported efforts by Member States to counter incitement and violent extremism, through engagement with a broad range of actors, including youth, families, women, civil society organizations and religious, cultural and educational leaders. The Directorate facilitated national and regional workshops in partnership with others on those issues, including in Africa and Asia. The main objective of the workshops was to demonstrate the need for a comprehensive approach that combines law enforcement measures with other steps, including measures to enhance dialogue, broaden understanding and promote tolerance and coexistence. The workshops also stressed the importance of taking into account conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and the need to integrate the gender perspective into measures to counter incitement and violent extremism.

33. The Executive Directorate also began work on the challenge of countering terrorist narratives. Security Council resolution 2354 (2017) endorsed a proposal by the Directorate to develop a comprehensive international framework, with recommended guidelines and good practices, to effectively counter terrorist narratives (S/2017/375, annex). The framework consists of three elements: (a) the implementation of related legal and law enforcement measures in accordance with international law; (b) the development of public-private partnerships; and (c) the development of counter-narratives. Pursuant to Council resolution 2354 (2017), the Committee and the Directorate are working to facilitate international cooperation to implement the framework and to identify and compile existing good practices in countering terrorist narratives, acting in coordination with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Working Group on Communications. The Directorate submitted to the Committee a workplan to support the implementation of resolution 2354 (2017).

34. In its resolution 2129 (2013), the Council requested the Executive Directorate to submit to the Committee, in accordance with resolution 1963 (2010), global surveys of implementation by Member States of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) and directed the Directorate to produce updated versions of the surveys. In this regard, the Directorate completed the second global survey on the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005), which was issued as a document of the Council (S/2016/50, annex). The updated survey addresses relevant human rights issues and the challenges posed by incitement through the Internet and other ICT. It also includes an overview of innovative approaches for enhanced implementation of the resolution, including to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters to conflict zones in accordance with Council resolution 2178 (2014).

35. The survey was updated on the basis of information gathered from a wide range of sources, including information contained in the Committee's visit reports, information gathered by the Executive Directorate within the framework of its ongoing dialogue with Member States outside the context of country visits, and reports by Member States on their implementation of resolution 1624 (2005).

VIII. Implementation of resolution 2178 (2014) by States affected by foreign terrorist fighters and emerging challenges

36. Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, requires Member States to take a number of additional measures to combat the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters and to counter violent extremism, and called on the Executive Directorate to assist States in those efforts. Pursuant to the resolution, the presidential statement issued by the Council on 19 November 2014 (S/PRST/2014/23) and the framework document for action by the Directorate on resolution 2178 (2014), the Directorate engaged in a number of activities to monitor, facilitate and promote implementation of the resolution by Member States.

37. In July 2015, the Committee held a special meeting in Madrid with Member States and relevant international and regional organizations on the theme "Stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters". The outcomes of the meeting include the conclusions of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (S/2015/939, annex I) and a set of guiding principles for stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters (ibid., annex II). The guiding principles notably advise States to utilize nationally, regionally and internationally sourced information and databases, especially those of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and to share information on foreign terrorist fighters. States are also called upon to transmit advance passenger information and passenger name records prior to the departure or arrival of passengers, in compliance with established standards and guidelines. The principles also provide guidance on prosecution strategies and advise that, in cases relating to foreign terrorist fighters, national criminal systems should ensure the admissibility in court of evidence collected from the Internet or through the use of special investigative techniques.

38. The Executive Directorate also submitted to the Council three reports on implementation by Member States of resolution 2178 (2014). The first report, issued in May 2015 (S/2015/338, annex), contained a preliminary assessment of an initial 21 Member States, based on a thematic approach. The second report, issued in September 2015 (S/2015/683, annex), considered a further 32 States, based on a predominantly regional approach. The third report, issued in December 2015 (S/2015/975, annex), employed a risk-based approach across seven additional subregions. It also included regional and thematic recommendations for 77 States identified by the Directorate as most affected by the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters.

39. The Executive Directorate participated in a number of events relating to foreign terrorist fighters and activities around the world to raise awareness of the requirements of resolution 2178 (2014) and the related activities of the Council, the Committee and the Executive Directorate. On the basis of its assessments, and pursuant to the presidential statement issued by the Council on 29 May 2015 (S/PRST/2015/11), the Executive Directorate made substantive contributions to the development of the United Nations capacity-building implementation plan for countering the flow of foreign terrorist fighters by identifying the main themes and regions to be addressed, including the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters who return to their countries of origin or relocate to third countries. In this regard, the Directorate and the Monitoring Team of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) also prepared a joint assessment of the impact of resolution 2178 (2014).

40. In its resolution 2178 (2014), the Council calls on States to take a number of measures to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, including introducing an

advance passenger information system and utilizing passenger name records. However, only 50 States have thus far introduced an advance passenger information system. Consequently, the majority of Member States are currently unable to verify the presence of foreign terrorist fighters on board aircraft flying into, transiting through or departing from their airports. This represents a significant global security threat, which must be addressed as a matter of priority. The Executive Directorate worked closely with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to develop an international standard, under annex 9 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, requiring all ICAO members to implement an advance passenger information system. The Directorate also initiated and led four advance passenger information in depth missions to high-priority States, funded by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, to advise on the development of an advance passenger information system.

41. In its resolution 2322 (2016), the Council calls on States to share biometric and biographical information. There is a need for all relevant actors, including the United Nations, to strengthen awareness and knowledge of biometrics and the related work of the United Nations and relevant international entities and to promote the collection, recording and sharing of biometric information. Within the framework of the Committee's special meeting on the theme "International judicial and law enforcement cooperation in counter-terrorism matters", held in June 2017, the Executive Directorate organized a session on the sharing of biometric and biographic information. The Directorate will launch a project, within the framework of the Task Force Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement relating to Counter-Terrorism, for the development of a compendium of existing good and recommended practices on the responsible use and sharing of biometrics in identifying terrorists, including key principles and measures to be taken into account at the national level.

42. The compendium will be utilized within the framework of the Committee's country assessment visits, as well as for awareness-raising purposes. The Executive Directorate participated in the Congress of the Biometrics Institute in November 2017 and engaged with biometrics experts from Member States and private sector actors engaged in the development of biometric technologies. The Directorate also continued to promote the use of the relevant INTERPOL databases, including its database of facial images, and continued to support the development and implementation of the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme strategy, which addresses biometric verification processes, quality control, management of errors and exceptions, and effective reading of biometric travel documents at the border.

43. Returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters present an acute and evolving threat to international peace and security. Upon their return to their States of origin or residence, or relocation to third States, they may use the training, experience, connections and credibility obtained in conflict zones to help expand terrorist networks through radicalization, recruitment and incitement, train others, engage in terrorism financing, facilitate the travel of other foreign terrorist fighters or engage in the planning or commission of attacks.

44. The Committee and the Executive Directorate continued to work with other United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia to assist States in their efforts to address the challenges that arise when foreign terrorist fighters return or relocate to their countries, including by providing analysis and guidance on ways to ensure that prisons systematically support disengagement, as well as on the prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of returning foreign terrorist fighters.

45. One notable example in this regard was engagement by the Executive Directorate with Nigeria within the framework of the partnership among Nigeria, the European Union, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Executive Directorate on developing approaches to prosecuting, rehabilitating and reintegrating persons associated with Boko Haram in accordance with Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 2178 (2014) and 2349 (2017). In June 2017, the Executive Directorate held a national inter-agency workshop on developing a prosecution strategy for terrorism-related cases concerning persons associated with Boko Haram. The workshop built upon the December 2016 working-level and high-level consultations on prosecuting, rehabilitating and reintegrating persons associated with Boko Haram, facilitated by the Directorate at the request of Nigeria's Office of the National Security Adviser. The workshop participants endorsed a set of 17 action points containing clear goals for an approach that: (a) prioritizes prosecution criteria and the capacity of the criminal justice system, as part of any strategy; (b) ensures transparency, coherence and predictability through the development of a legal framework; and (c) provides sustainable resources at the federal and state levels and is mindful of competing resource requests concerning the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims, internally displaced persons and refugees. The approach also takes into account a number of specific concerns, including concerns relating to women and children. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close consultation with the Directorate, is expected to engage in additional related activities in Chad and the Niger in late 2017 and early 2018.

IX. Activities pursuant to recently adopted Council resolutions on terrorism

46. Since the previous mandate renewal review, the Council has adopted resolutions 2133 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2185 (2014), 2195 (2014), 2220 (2015), 2242 (2015), 2253 (2015), 2309 (2016), 2322 (2016), 2331 (2016), 2341 (2017), 2354 (2017), 2368 (2017), 2370 (2017) and 2388 (2017). These resolutions confer a number of new tasks upon the Executive Directorate, including the preparation of in-depth assessments and analysis in a wide variety of thematic areas, which require new expertise.

47. Those thematic areas include, inter alia, the links between transnational organized crime and terrorism, foreign terrorist fighters, policing, terrorist threats to civil aviation, threats posed by terrorists' access to weapons and the supply and trafficking of weapons to terrorists, gender issues in counter-terrorism, preventing and suppressing the financing of terrorist groups, including ISIL, Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, kidnapping for ransom, prosecution, rehabilitation and integration, promoting international law enforcement and judicial cooperation in counter-terrorism matters, the use of biometrics, the downgrading of intelligence for use by frontline officers, trafficking in persons for terrorist purposes, protection of critical infrastructure, countering terrorist narratives, the use of digital and battlefield evidence, new border-control measures (including advance passenger information and biometrics), use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons, and links between human trafficking and financing of terrorism.

48. One example of engagement by the Executive Directorate pursuant to recently adopted Council resolutions is the report prepared pursuant to paragraph 21 of resolution 2322 (2016) on the current state of international law enforcement and judicial cooperation related to terrorism. Prepared with the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and in consultation with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office, the report identifies major gaps in international

cooperation and provides targeted recommendations on ways to address them. A summary of the report was presented at the Committee's meeting of 26 October 2017.

X. Updating of the technical guide to the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and other relevant resolutions

49. Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1535 (2004), 1624 (2005) and 2178 (2014) require the Executive Directorate to assist the Committee in its efforts to monitor implementation by States of Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 2178 (2014). In this regard, the Committee requested the Directorate to update its 2009 technical guide, which had been welcomed and accepted by the Committee as a reference tool for use during visits conducted on the Committee's behalf.

50. The guide addresses each paragraph of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) and also identifies key provisions of resolution 2178 (2014). It also takes into account the requirements set forth in resolutions 2129 (2013), 2133 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2195 (2014), 2220 (2015), 2242 (2015), 2253 (2015), 2309 (2016), 2322 (2016), 2331 (2016), 2341 (2017) and 2354 (2017) in order to reflect the additional elements of those resolutions.

51. The updated technical guide fully reflects the mainstreaming of gender, ICT, human rights, countering violent extremism, terrorism financing and implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) into all the Executive Directorate's work. It utilizes previously agreed language of the Committee, deepens the analysis of the thematic areas covered, references documents previously approved by the Committee (such as the detailed implementation surveys, the guiding principles for stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, the Committee's policy guidance, the findings of the Directorate's reports on foreign terrorist fighters and selected products from the Global Counterterrorism Forum). The updated version also includes 14 new sections and four new chapters on issues relating to terrorism financing, ICT, border control, criminal justice, human rights, gender, law enforcement, countering violent extremism, Council resolution 1624 (2005) and international cooperation. The English-language version has been submitted by the Committee to the Council and the guide will be translated into the other five official languages of the United Nations by January 2018.

XI. Streamlining of work procedures

52. The Committee, with the support of the Executive Directorate, introduced further expedited working procedures, including the adoption of files of Member States through the no-objection procedure on a case-by-case basis, aimed at keeping pace with the evolving counter-terrorism situation and addressing terrorism-related issues in a timely manner. On 3 June 2015, the Committee adapted the semi-annual report by the Directorate to make it an annual report. These procedures helped to streamline the Directorate's working methods and enabled it to provide a more comprehensive and in-depth end-of-year assessment of new terrorist threats, trends, issues, challenges and good practices. The Directorate also continued to update the Committee on its activities through the submission of monthly reports. Together with the Committee secretariat, the Directorate continued to assist the Committee to streamline its procedures in order to promote greater transparency and efficiency.

XII. Special meetings, open briefings and other events

53. Pursuant to Council resolutions 2129 (2013) and 2133 (2014), as well as to other resolutions and decisions of the Council, the Committee, with the assistance of the Executive Directorate, held 38 special meetings, events and open briefings of the Committee during the period from September 2013 to December 2017.

54. From 2013 to 2017, the Committee held special meetings on the following topics: enhancing cooperation and technical assistance to States in the Sahel region to strengthen their capacity in the global fight against terrorism (20 September 2013); kidnapping for ransom and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups (24 November 2014); stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters (27 and 28 July 2015); preventing terrorists from exploiting the Internet and social media to recruit terrorists and incite terrorist acts, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms (two meetings, on 16 and 17 December 2015 and on 30 November and 1 December 2016); depriving terrorist groups from accessing, raising and moving funds: practices and lessons learned, held pursuant to resolution 2253 (2015) jointly with the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) and FATF (12 and 13 December 2016); international judicial and law enforcement cooperation in counter-terrorism matters pursuant to Security Council resolution 2322 (2016) and other relevant Council resolutions (20 and 21 June 2017); and terrorist threats to civil aviation (6 and 7 July 2017).

55. Open briefings, meetings, round tables and other events were held by the Committee on the following topics: preventing terrorists' misuse of travel documents and terrorism prevention activities (25 April 2014); protection of critical tourism infrastructure (12 June 2014); countering incitement to commit terrorist acts motivated by extremism and intolerance: Morocco's approach and the experiences of other African States (30 September 2014); the importance of the rule of law in countering the current terrorist threat, with the Minister of Justice of France, Christiane Taubira (10 February 2015); the use of advance passenger information to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters (11 June 2015); strengthening emergency responses in the aftermath of terrorist incidents (16 June 2015); new initiatives to address the foreign terrorist fighter challenge, with the Council of Europe (19 June 2015); the role of education in countering terrorism, incitement and violent extremism, with the Tony Blair Faith Foundation (24 July 2014); the role of women in countering terrorism (9 September 2015); and commemorating the tenth anniversary of resolution 1624 (2005) (14 September 2015).

56. In 2016 and 2017, the Committee held meetings on the following topics: the effective adjudication of terrorism cases (10 March 2016); countering the financing of terrorism and depriving terrorist groups, particularly Al-Qaida, ISIL (Da'esh) and their affiliates, from their sources of funding, jointly with FATF and the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) (14 April 2016); the implementation of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) and the Madrid guiding principles as a practical tool for Member States to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters (22 July 2016); enhancing counter-terrorism international cooperation, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (12 December 2016); terrorist financing through the misuse of social media platforms to raise and move funds (13 December 2016); the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon in Western Europe (closed meeting, 27 March 2017); denying safe haven to those who finance, plan, support or commit terrorist acts or provide safe havens and preventing terrorists from abusing the asylum system, in conformity with international law (5 April 2017); preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons (17 May 2017); Iraq technical assistance follow-up (31 May 2017); Libya (27 June 2017); West Africa (27 June 2017); developing national and regional comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism strategies (lessons learned)

(31 October 2017); legal issues and challenges to the treatment and prosecution of returning foreign terrorist fighters, including emerging issues (8 November 2017); open meeting with academic institutions and think tanks (continuation of meeting of November 2015) (16 November 2017); Afghanistan: technical assistance identification (28 November); Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate technical guide (20 November 2017); and launch of the Tech against Terrorism knowledge-sharing platform (29 November 2017).

57. These events were open to Member States and international and regional organizations and served as useful platforms for the timely exchange of information on new and emerging trends, threats and challenges, interaction among stakeholders, sharing of good practices, discussion of capacity-building needs, planning of technical assistance programmes and raising the visibility of the work of the Committee and the Executive Directorate. The special meeting on international judicial and law enforcement cooperation in counter-terrorism matters, held on 20 and 21 June 2017, involved 36 international and regional organizations and academic entities.

58. These events also enable the Committee to raise the awareness of Member States and relevant international and regional organizations and civil society, exchange information on key gaps and challenges, mobilize support to implement the relevant Council resolutions and obtain updated information on international efforts to implement the resolutions.

XIII. Development of regional and thematic issues

59. Pursuant to paragraphs 14 and 15 of resolution 1963 (2010) and paragraph 22 of resolution 2129 (2013), the Executive Directorate gave a series of briefings to the Committee on regional and thematic issues of relevance to the implementation of the relevant Council resolutions, with the participation of New York based United Nations entities and organizations. The Chair of the Committee arranged for similar public briefings by the Directorate for the wider membership. These arrangements and discussions helped the Committee not only to raise awareness of its strategic and transparent approaches, but also to raise the visibility of its work and maintain its link and dialogue with the wider membership.

60. In July 2014, the Executive Directorate briefed the Committee on specific challenges relating to countering terrorism and violent extremism in Central Asia. In June 2015, the Directorate organized a meeting with the Chair of the Committee and the representatives of all five Central Asian States to discuss the Committee's dialogue with those States on their implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 2178 (2014). By the end of 2017, the Directorate will have conducted assessment visits to all five States of the region. This process has produced a wealth of updated information on States' counter-terrorism capacities and technical assistance needs. The Directorate also continues to work with its regional implementing partners and to support regional initiatives, in close cooperation with its partners.

XIV. Development of comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism strategies and mechanisms to implement them

61. Pursuant to paragraph 6 of Council resolution 1963 (2010) and paragraph 18 of Council resolution 2129 (2013), the Executive Directorate continued its dialogue with Member States aimed at advising them, as appropriate, on the development of

comprehensive and integrated national counter-terrorism strategies and the introduction of implementing mechanisms that include attention to the factors that lead to terrorist activities. In doing so, the Directorate continued its close cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, in particular through its Working Group on National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies, which is co-chaired by the Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism. A total of 25 States have thus far implemented national counter-terrorism strategies.

62. In conducting assessment visits on behalf of the Committee, the Executive Directorate has informed a number of States about the need to adopt a national comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism strategy that engages a wide range of stakeholders. For example, following the Committee's assessment visit in March 2015, Tunisia requested support for the drafting of a national strategy on counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism. The strategy was adopted in November 2016. Within the framework of the Task Force, the Directorate also facilitated a series of consultations between the Government of Tunisia and civil society with the aim of strengthening the latter's engagement of society in the implementation of the strategy and establishing multi-stakeholder platforms for consultation, cooperation and coordination. It is anticipated that this work will continue beyond 2017.

63. Upon request, the Executive Directorate provides States in need of advice with its compilation of good practices, as well as a draft model national strategy that reflects the provisions of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy at the national level. In advising Member States, the Directorate also uses the guiding principles for counter-terrorism strategies identified at the International Conference on National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies, which was held in 2013 in Bogotá and was jointly organized by the Directorate and the Task Force and sponsored by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.

64. On 25 May 2017, the Executive Directorate briefed the Committee on its work with Member States and regional organizations on the development of comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism strategies, including the methodology followed, findings, lessons learned and recommendations on the way forward. The briefing was delivered together with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and attended by other partner organizations and United Nations entities. The Chair proposed that the Committee hold an open briefing on the development of national strategies for the wider United Nations membership, which was held on 31 October 2017. The open briefing helped to demonstrate the transparency of the work of the Committee in areas of crucial importance to States' counter-terrorism efforts.

XV. Human rights in the context of counter-terrorism

65. In accordance with the Committee's policy guidance on human rights, the Executive Directorate continued to take account of relevant human rights concerns, both in its dialogue with States in the context of country visits and in the facilitation of technical assistance delivery. The Directorate also engaged actively with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, including by participating in the development and implementation of technical assistance projects through the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism and with relevant special rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council.

66. The Executive Directorate continued to provide internal human rights guidance to all staff of the Directorate, in accordance with the Committee's policy guidance, including in connection with country visits, preparing overviews of implementation assessments and detailed implementation surveys, organizing thematic and regional

briefings to the Committee and drafting reports to the Council on the threat posed by ISIL, pursuant to resolution 2253 (2015). The Directorate also took into account human rights elements in its work on thematic issues and in organizing special meetings of the Committee on, inter alia, the denial of safe haven and international judicial and law enforcement cooperation.

XVI. Integrating gender as a cross-cutting issue and considering the role of women in countering terrorism and violent extremism

67. In accordance with Council resolution 2242 (2015), the Executive Directorate has integrated gender as a cross-cutting issue into its own activities and those of the Committee, enhanced its collaboration with UN-Women and conducted gender-related research on the factors driving radicalization of women and the impact of counter-terrorism strategies on women's human rights and women's organizations, with a view to developing targeted and evidence-based policy and programming responses and strengthening its gender expertise.

68. The Executive Directorate has taken the gender dimension into consideration in its country-specific assessments and dialogues with Member States, where relevant, in assessing implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 2178 (2014) and in identifying trends, good practices and technical assistance needs. UN-Women has participated in several assessment visits and remains closely engaged in other activities through cooperation with the Directorate at Headquarters and in the field. As part of its efforts to encourage States to develop national comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism strategies, the Directorate identifies related good practices in its country visits and consultations with relevant United Nations entities and international and regional organizations and entities.

69. The Executive Directorate also takes the gender dimension into consideration, as appropriate, in facilitating technical assistance and capacity-building programmes to be implemented by United Nations and other partners, including in particular UN-Women and the Office of Counter-Terrorism. Those efforts include a range of initiatives to address the life cycle of radicalization to violence and to support criminal justice, law enforcement and security actors, including on the roles of women in combating incitement and countering terrorist narratives and in the development of appropriate prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters and their families.

XVII. Cooperation with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, other Security Council subsidiary bodies and United Nations entities

70. Pursuant to resolution 2129 (2013), the Executive Directorate continued to engage actively with the Office of Counter-Terrorism (previously the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office) and Task Force entities. The Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism held regular meetings to explore ways to further strengthen their cooperation. As a core member of the Task Force, the Directorate

continued to contribute to various Task Force Working Groups.[7] The Directorate is also a key member of the activities of the Task Force Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism Initiative.

71. The Executive Directorate also led the work of the Task Force to produce a compendium of international and regional instruments, norms and good practices for counter-terrorism-related border control and to develop a framework for coordinated management of border-security risks. A United Nations system-wide matrix of technical assistance projects and capacity-building events was initiated in September 2013 as a direct result of networking between the Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism. The Directorate also worked with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre to design and facilitate technical assistance projects to meet the needs of recipient States at the regional and thematic levels.

72. As Co-Chair of the Task Force Working Group on Legal and Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism, the Executive Directorate coordinated with Task Force entities to initiate a project on the role of the military in supporting the collection, sharing and use of evidence for promoting the rule of law and human rights-compliant criminal justice responses to terrorism. The goal of the project is to build consensus and establish United Nations guiding principles in this area by the first quarter of 2018. The Directorate obtained a project-funding agreement from Switzerland and held a General Assembly side event with the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism in The Hague to develop the basis for further discussion and implementation of the project.

73. During the period under review, the four Executive Directorate-led United Nations in depth missions on advance passenger information capacity-building were funded by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Office of Counter-Terrorism though a contribution from the United States. These inter-agency missions included representatives of the International Air Transport Association, ICAO, INTERPOL, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The missions enabled the visiting teams to identify the current status of implementation of advance passenger information programmes and highlighted the steps to be taken by the visited State to implement such a programme (which became an ICAO international standard in October 2017), in full cooperation and partnership with the relevant national actors, including the airline industry. The findings of the consultations were reflected in a road map for the implementation of an advance passenger information system. Missions have thus far been conducted to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Malaysia, Morocco and Nigeria. The visited States are selected on the basis of the report of the Executive Directorate on priority States in relation to foreign terrorist fighters identified following the adoption of resolution 2178 (2014). The Directorate leads the missions and on-site visits and chairs the consultations. The

[7] Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement relating to Counter-Terrorism (Co-Chair); Working Group on Countering the Financing of Terrorism (member); Ad hoc Working Group on Foreign Terrorist Fighters (member); Working Group on National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies (Co-Chair); Working Group on Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction Terrorist Attacks (member); Working Group on Preventing Violent Extremism and Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism (member); Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism (member); Working Group on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure including Vulnerable Targets, Internet and Tourism Security (member); Working Group on Supporting and Highlighting Victims of Terrorism (member); Working Group on Legal And Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism (Co-Chair); Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism Initiative (Co-Chair); Working Group on a Gender Sensitive Approach to Preventing and Countering Terrorism (Co-Chair) and Working Group on Communications (Co-Chair).

findings of the missions are also included in its ongoing dialogue with Member States regarding the implementation of the relevant Council resolutions, international counter-terrorism instruments and international standards.

74. The Executive Directorate continued to cooperate closely with the experts of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015), including through regular exchange of information, sharing of mission reports and the preparation of joint documents and joint statements of the Chairs of those two Committees and the Counter-Terrorism Committee to the Council. Pursuant to resolution 2253 (2015) and with substantive contributions from the Monitoring Team of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015), the Directorate drafted five reports of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL and the response of Member States and United Nations entities. The three Committees also explored ways to enhance their cooperation in working with Member States and international and regional organizations. The experts of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) and, where appropriate, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) also joined the Directorate on country visits conducted on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. On 18 December 2014, pursuant to paragraph 23 of resolution 2129 (2013), the Counter-Terrorism Committee arranged a briefing by the Caribbean-based shared counter-terrorism focal point on plans and activities to support the work of the Committee in the region. The Directorate continued its efforts to explore the possibility of expanding the use of regionally based shared focal points to support the work of the Committee and the Directorate, as well as the experts of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015).

75. Within the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Committee's country visits, the Executive Directorate continued to liaise closely on issues of common concern with the Department of Political Affairs, resident coordinators of the United Nations Development Programme, United Nations country team members, other Security Council sanctions regimes, the Special Adviser on Africa, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel and for Central Africa. The Directorate has also been an active participant in several inter-agency task forces, including on Boko Haram, Central Africa and Mali, and has engaged closely with other partners on thematic issues of concern to the Committee.

76. The Executive Directorate also worked closely with the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other United Nations entities within the framework of country visits and the facilitation of technical assistance delivery. The Terrorism Prevention Branch participated in most Committee assessment visits and actively participated in other events of the Committee and the Directorate on regional and thematic issues in an effort to help strengthen the counter-terrorism capacities of Member States.

XVIII. Engagement with international, regional and subregional organizations

77. International, regional and subregional organizations continued to be key partners of the Committee and the Executive Directorate in their work to monitor, promote and facilitate implementation by Member States of resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 1963 (2010), 2129 (2013) and 2178 (2014). Engagement with these

entities included promoting international standards, codes and best practices, assessing implementation efforts of States, identifying regional and thematic challenges, assisting in capacity-building efforts by States and facilitating the delivery of technical assistance. The Directorate also continued to be an active participant in the meetings and activities of the Global Counterterrorism Forum and its regional and thematic groups on the Sahel region, the Horn of Africa, foreign terrorist fighters, detention and reintegration, criminal justice and the rule of law, and countering violent extremism.

78. In the area of counter-financing of terrorism, the Executive Directorate continued to work closely with FATF and its global network. The Directorate was closely involved in the revision of the FATF recommendation on the criminalization of the financing of terrorism and contributed actively to several typology reports, including on terrorism financing in West and Central Africa (2016) and on the financing of recruitment (2017). As well as participating in FATF and FATF-style regional body events and joint special meetings, the Directorate also hosts annual technical discussions on the implementation of standards on combating the financing of terrorism and lessons learned from the FATF mutual evaluation process. Presidents of FATF addressed the Committee in 2014 and 2017, and the Chair of the Eurasian Group on Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism did so in 2016. The Directorate subsequently signed a cooperation agreement with the Eurasian Group on Money Laundering.

79. During the reporting period, the Executive Directorate continued to collaborate with the Global Counterterrorism Forum, notably though its relevant working groups, to improve coherence, coordinate policy and engage in initiatives of the Forum. The Directorate also provided regular input for the development of Forum good practices, participated in Forum meetings and events, including the twelfth Coordinating Committee meeting of 18 September 2017, and worked closely with the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, Hedayah and the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law.

80. The Executive Directorate also concluded several formal agreements for enhanced cooperation and information exchange with regional organizations, including the Commonwealth of Independent States Anti-Terrorism Centre, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the regional counter-terrorist structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and concluded an agreement on cooperation and coordination with INTERPOL. The Directorate is currently discussing with ICAO the possibility of signing a similar agreement.

XIX. Interaction with civil society, the private sector, academia and other non-governmental actors

81. Pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 1963 (2010), the Executive Directorate continued to engage with a broad range of non-governmental actors in promoting effective implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), including through the development of strategic partnerships. On 19 February 2015, acting pursuant to paragraph 19 of resolution 2129 (2013), the Directorate launched its Global Counter-Terrorism Research Network. On 16 November 2017, the Committee held its second meeting with members of the Network, during which the Committee, the Directorate and the research community analysed and discussed several emerging issues, trends and developments relating to resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 2178 (2014) and subsequent Council resolutions. A meeting outcome document was submitted to the Committee. The Network has grown considerably since its launch,

in terms of both size and expertise, and now includes over 100 leading research entities from around the world.

82. Partnering with academic and research institutions and think tanks continued to support the Committee and the Executive Directorate in their efforts to keep abreast of emerging trends and challenges and to identify and share good practices in implementation of the relevant Council resolutions by Member States. Council resolution 2354 (2017) directs the Committee, with the support of the Directorate, to work with outside partners, including members of the Research Network, to identify possible ways to measure the impact and effectiveness of counter-narratives and to develop an annual workplan on countering terrorist narratives. This is currently one of the key areas of cooperation between the Directorate and its Network partners.

83. In accordance with Council resolution 2341 (2017), which directs the Committee, with the support of the Executive Directorate, to examine States' efforts to protect critical infrastructure from terrorist attack, as relevant to the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), with the aim of identifying good practices, gaps and vulnerabilities in that area . Taking into consideration relevant research from academia and drawing upon the Directorate's assessment, the Directorate produced a trends report on critical infrastructure in March 2017. The Committee held open briefings on protection of critical infrastructure in tourism on 12 June 2014 and on strengthening emergency responses in the aftermath of terrorist incidents on 16 June 2015. On 21 November 2016, the Council held an Arria formula meeting on the protection of critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks initiated by the delegation of Ukraine. The Directorate also supports the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Working Group on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure including Vulnerable Targets, Internet and Tourism Security.

84. Interaction with academic institutions, think tanks, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private-sector entities continued to enhance the Committee's knowledge of and response to key counter-terrorism challenges, including countering incitement motivated by extremism and intolerance, preventing abuse of the non-profit organization sector for terrorism-financing purposes, the development of prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, the introduction of effective measures to bring terrorists to justice, border management, and the provision of technical assistance as a supplement to the efforts of donor Governments. The Executive Directorate also interacted with non-governmental actors within the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force framework, notably through the activities of its various working groups. In this regard, the implementation of resolution 2331 (2016), on countering trafficking in persons in armed conflict in all its forms, provided an opportunity for the Directorate to engage with a number of NGOs and academics on, inter alia, human trafficking that finances terrorism.

85. In its resolution 2129 (2013), the Security Council noted the evolving nexus between terrorism and ICT, in particular the Internet, as well as the use of technologies to commit terrorist acts and to facilitate such acts through their use to incite, recruit, fund or plan terrorist acts. In the resolution, the Council directed the Executive Directorate to continue to address this issue, in consultation with States, international, regional and subregional organizations, the private sector and civil society and to advise the Committee on further approaches. As well as organizing two special meetings of the Committee involving all relevant stakeholders, the Directorate promoted the adoption of self-regulation measures by the ICT industry, through consultations conducted across the globe with the support of leading ICT companies, such as Facebook, Microsoft, Weibo, Google, Telefonica, Twitter and Kaspersky.

86. Consultations with the private sector led to the 2017 launch of the Tech against Terrorism initiative (www.techagainstterrorism.org), which aims to promote the

adoption and sharing of good practices by ICT firms worldwide, including smaller companies. The Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism announced at the launch of the initiative, on 1 August 2017, that knowledge-sharing across the industry would be accomplished through the Tech against Terrorism knowledge-sharing platform. In this regard, it should be noted that in resolution 2354 (2017) the Council requested the Committee to further develop initiatives to strengthen public-private partnerships in countering terrorist narratives and welcomed the comprehensive international framework to counter terrorist narratives (S/2017/375, annex), which notes the value of working with the private sector and initiatives such as those of ICT for Peace.

87. The Executive Directorate's partnership with the ICT industry will also be leveraged to modernize and strengthen the capacity of central authorities, prosecutors and investigators to preserve and obtain electronic evidence in cross-border investigations into terrorist activities and related organized crime. The Directorate also supports the efforts of the World Economic Forum to promote public-private cooperation, including as Co-Chair of its Global Agenda Council on Cybersecurity and as Co-Chair of its Industrial Internet of Things Safety Network, which aims to identify security challenges relating to the industrial Internet of things and develop frameworks and principles for addressing them, including by strengthening device and implementation security and ensuring that users, manufacturers and implementers act in the interests of society as a whole.

XX. Public communications and outreach

88. In accordance with the Committee's revised communications strategy, adopted by the Committee in 2014, the Executive Directorate adopted a considerably more proactive approach to its communications efforts during the period under review. In implementing the revised strategy, the Directorate stressed the added value provided by the Committee and the Directorate to the global efforts of the United Nations to counter terrorism. In doing so, it employed a wide range of media tools, including multimedia, and informed a variety of constituencies and target groups about the activities of the Committee and the Directorate.

89. The online presence of the Committee and the Executive Directorate was revamped to respond to the rapid evolution in user platforms (including mobile devices), which now integrate features such as RSS (rich site summary) feeds, social media and sharing functions. The Committee's website has achieved a 158 per cent increase in page views since 2014. Currently available in English only, it is being translated into the other five official languages of the United Nations. The Directorate has established a presence on Twitter, Facebook, Flickr and Instagram. The number of Twitter followers reached close to 15,000 in 2017, almost triple the number recorded at the previous mandate renewal review.

90. Exposure in traditional media also registered a significant increase. The Committee and/or its Chair, the Executive Directorate, the Executive Director and/or the Deputy Executive Director were mentioned, on average, over 100 times annually. This trend was driven in part by an increase in the frequency of press briefings and greater interest from traditional media. Around 1,000 individual visitors were briefed annually on the work of the Committee and the Directorate. The number of subscribers to the quarterly electronic newsletter surpassed 2,000 in 2017, representing a nearly 500 per cent increase compared with 2014.

91. In an effort to increase awareness of the Committee's special meetings, open briefings and other events, both internally and externally, the Executive Directorate employed a broader set of outreach tools, including social media posts, cross-posting by key United Nations social media accounts and targeted invitations to academics,

professional groups and journalists. A Tweetwall was used at two Committee events. During the review period, the Directorate also produced and printed several publications containing major reports and relevant Council resolutions.

XXI. Organization and operations of the Executive Directorate

92. The period under review was marked primarily by the continued financial constraints of Member States. In that context, the Executive Directorate continued to function with minimal staffing growth (three additional posts since 2014: two in 2015 and one in 2017), despite its substantially increased workload. The staff of the Directorate currently consists of 36 full-time Professional and 8 General Service positions. The Directorate continued its efforts to ensure that it has the capacity required to perform the additional tasks conferred by recently adopted Council resolutions on terrorism and to meet the demands of technical assistance facilitation projects funded through extrabudgetary funds.

93. Since the establishment of its trust fund, the Executive Directorate has become more efficient in managing voluntary contributions in support of its facilitation activities.

94. The Executive Directorate will continue to do its utmost to effectively and efficiently fulfil the tasks assigned to it by the Council and the Committee, in accordance with the relevant Council resolutions.

Annex II

Note from the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate addressed to the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

I. Introduction

1. The United Nations and its Member States are faced with an increasingly complex and multidimensional terrorist threat. The present note contains suggestions for the Committee's consideration ahead of the Council's forthcoming review of the mandate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. It also identifies certain challenges imposed upon the Directorate by the significant evolution in the global terrorist threat, the need to ensure effective and full implementation of the relevant Council resolutions and the Committee's recommendations, and the significant increase in the tasks conferred upon the Directorate by the Council in recent resolutions.

2. The note also contains certain suggestions concerning critical workstreams of the Executive Directorate which the Committee may wish to take into account. These suggestions are intended to reflect the recently reformed United Nations counter-terrorism architecture and to ensure that the Directorate is provided with the necessary means to fulfil its mandate, effectively serve the Committee and the Council and, most importantly, effectively assist States to counter terrorism. My primary objective is to help ensure the maximum impact of the Directorate's assessments, analysis and expertise in advancing the role of the entire United Nations system in countering terrorism.

II. Strengthening the Executive Directorate's assessments and its methodology

3. The on-site country assessments conducted on behalf of the Committee are a critical component of the work of the Executive Directorate. There are several ways in which the Directorate can enhance the impact and effectiveness of its assessment work, including:

(a) Introducing greater flexibility into the development of the list of States to be visited;

(b) Improving responsiveness to new and emerging trends;

(c) Extending visits where necessary in order to ensure substantive engagement with national actors and implementing partners;

(d) Developing new visit formats;

(e) Adapting the Directorate's working procedures.

4. Expert assessments by the Executive Directorate of the counter-terrorism regimes of Member States are unique and comprehensive products. They address overall national counter-terrorism efforts by States, their strengths, weaknesses and technical assistance needs and good practices developed to advance implementation of the relevant Council resolutions. They also identify emerging terrorism trends and challenges and help to assess compliance in all areas of counter-terrorism.

5. The assessment methodology developed under the direction of the Committee ensures that dialogue with Member States is based on a set of international counter-terrorism standards, codes and practices, and that it is applied in a consistent manner to all Member States (even though the on-site assessment itself is tailored to the particularities of the visited Member State). In this regard, the recently updated technical guide is a critical tool in efforts by the Executive Directorate to ensure consistent and thorough assessment. The Committee may wish to consider ways to raise the awareness of Member States of the guide and to ensure that it remains continuously updated and available to Member States in all six official languages of the United Nations.

6. The assessments by the Executive Directorate also draw on its expertise in identifying emerging trends, progress made and common shortfalls, help to deepen its understanding of these issues and inform its overall analysis of the situation at the national, regional and cross-regional levels.

7. A broad range of international and regional organizations and United Nations bodies participate in the country assessment visits. Their participation not only strengthens the assessment of matters within their expertise, but also enables them to play an important role in the subsequent facilitation of technical assistance for the visited State.

8. In this regard, I wish to make some brief suggestions for strengthening the visit methodology.

9. Current Committee practice is to develop a list of proposed States to be visited during a relatively long period (the most recent list covered the period 2014–2017). This approach enables the Executive Directorate to make long-term plans, but it also undermines the ability of the Committee and the Directorate to respond quickly to new trends and developments and to specific visit requests by Member States. The Committee may therefore wish to conduct an annual review of its multi-year plan so as to take stock of which visits have been conducted, consider the situation of Member States that have not consented to the Committee's visit requests (and how best to follow up in that regard) and, where appropriate, consider whether any additional visit proposals should be submitted to the Committee to ensure that the list of visits reflects the most recent terrorist threats, trends, challenges and needs.

10. The Committee may also wish to review its procedures for visits to Member States. For example, in order to address the volume of information-exchange required pursuant to the recently adopted Council resolutions and give due consideration to all relevant issues (including cross-cutting issues such as human rights and gender) the Committee may wish to consider expanding the objectives of the visits, as necessary. This would enable the visiting delegation to more effectively cover the relevant issues in more depth and agree with the Government on an action plan for implementing the agreed upon recommendations. It would also give the delegation more time to meet with implementing partners and international, regional and subregional organizations with a view to ensuring effective facilitation of technical assistance delivery.

11. Moreover, in order to address the broader range of issues arising from the evolving terrorist threat and the evolving needs of Member States, the Committee may wish to consider developing new types of visits to respond to specific circumstances. Such visits may also involve more expeditious procedures, such as those employed by the Monitoring Team of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015).

12. In this regard, the Counter-Terrorism Committee may wish to consider:

(a) Visits to States which, according to assessment and analysis by the Executive Directorate, are vulnerable to an imminent, critical or serious terrorist

threat. Such visits would enable the Directorate to meet with the officials of the States concerned to discuss their preventive policies and explore ways to provide support, if necessary;

(b) Post-crisis visits to States in which a terrorist incident has occurred. Such visits would enable the Directorate to meet with officials of the States concerned to discuss capacity-building needs and share effective crisis-management practices;

(c) Expert-level visits to States that have not yet submitted relevant information concerning their implementation efforts or are late in doing so. Such visits would enable an expert from the Directorate, perhaps supported by experts from other international, regional and subregional organizations, to spend one to two weeks in the State concerned to gather facts and figures about its situation.

III. Enhancing impact through follow-up

13. In order to maximize the impact of the assessment and analysis by the Executive Directorate, it is essential that there be concrete follow-up to country visits, as well as tangible support for the implementation of the Committee's visit recommendations. In this regard, the Directorate proposes to work more closely with high-risk Member States to address the recommendations and priorities outlined in the reports and work more closely with its United Nations and implementing partners to facilitate technical assistance delivery. In order to do this, the Directorate would need to strengthen expert-level follow-up through increased engagement with its implementing partners. This would also help to raise the profile of its work and thereby encourage broader and increased participation in the visits.

14. It is imperative to ensure immediate, long-term and effective follow-up to the Committee's visits. Effective results must be achieved on the ground to justify the resources invested in the visits by the United Nations, the Committee and the visited State. In this regard, I would recall that the Council, in its resolution 2129 (2013), invites the Executive Directorate to conduct regular follow-up activity with concerned Member States. Effective follow-up on the implementation of identified gaps and needs is a critical outcome, both of the visits and of the Committee's and the Directorate's overall work.

15. The Committee's visit reports include recommendations that are generally divided into two categories: those that can be implemented by States within their existing resources and capacities and those that require technical assistance. In this regard, it is important to recall that successful follow-up also depends in part on a State's response to the recommendations. Member States should therefore be reminded of their obligation to meet their international counter-terrorism obligations. The Committee may wish to consider enhancing and expediting follow-up activities by States through increased direct dialogue between the Committee and officials of the visited Member State during subsequent meetings of the Committee.

16. A further effective follow-up mechanism may be for the Executive Directorate to conduct an expert-level follow-up visit to take stock of progress made in implementing the Committee's recommendations.

17. Guided by the Committee, the Executive Directorate has established and developed close working partnerships with all relevant international, regional and subregional organizations. These partnerships are among the Directorate's strongest comparative advantages, and I am committed to ensuring that they deliver the best possible value to the Committee and, most importantly, to Member States.

18. A vital component of those partnerships is the participation of the Executive Directorate's key implementing partners in the country visits. Moreover, many implementing partners have integrated the Committee's recommendations into their work programmes. In this regard, the Committee may wish to encourage specialized international organizations to secure the resources required to join the assessment visits.

IV. Facilitation of technical assistance delivery and implementation of Committee recommendations

19. In its resolution 2129 (2013), the Council encourages the Executive Directorate to facilitate technical assistance, specifically by promoting engagement between providers of capacity-building assistance and recipients, and to assess the impact of its donor-supported project activity linked to capacity-building and cooperation. However, the current facilitation process is too lengthy. Too much time elapses between the identification of technical assistance needs and the delivery of assistance. Moreover, the Directorate's overall capacity to facilitate technical assistance delivery is limited, especially in cases where the necessary funds and donors are not available. This undermines the implementation of recommendations whose implementation requires technical assistance. It also means that technical assistance referrals may need to be subsequently amended.

20. Many States welcome the confidential nature of their dialogue with the Committee. However, some States would benefit greatly from sharing the Committee's recommendations with donors and providers. In cases where States have agreed to share their technical assistance assessments, the outcome has been increased transparency and an enhanced implementation process. I stand ready to propose to the Committee practical ways to encourage States to consider sharing their reports more widely with donors and providers with a view to attracting capacity-building support.

21. The expanded use of platforms for coordination with the donor community may also help to expedite and strengthen uptake of recommendations and technical assistance delivery by providers. In this regard, the Committee may wish to consider organizing regular meetings, based on the country visits and assessments. This would provide opportunities to share priority assistance needs and related assessments and to aggregate analyses and recommendations and their underlying rationales.

22. Within the framework of its periodic partnership review of particular country profiles, the Committee may also wish to consider conducting, with the support of the Executive Directorate and the Committee secretariat, a more robust stocktaking exercise that involves all relevant actors, as well as the targeted beneficiary. In order to attract focused and sustained international support, and based on the methods employed by the Security Council and other forums to support particular States, the Committee may also wish to consider establishing groups of friends, under the leadership of the Committee Chair or Co-chair and the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, for States in need of counter-terrorism-related technical assistance.

V. Strengthening the impact of the Executive Directorate's analysis and identification of challenges, gaps, trends and developments

23. In response to the unprecedented evolution in the global terrorist threat, the Security Council has adopted a number of resolutions since the previous mandate review. Those resolutions address a broad range of issues, including stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, strengthening international judicial and law enforcement cooperation, countering terrorist narratives, countering the use of information and communications technology (ICT) for terrorist purposes, combating human trafficking for terrorism-financing purposes, combating terrorist threats to civil aviation, protecting critical infrastructure, building public-private partnerships and preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons.

24. In order to support and promote implementation of these resolutions, the Committee and the Council rely heavily on the Executive Directorate's assessments and analytical capacity. The Directorate has rapidly developed assessment criteria and identified good practices in a number of areas, including the development of prosecution and rehabilitation strategies, the use of biometrics and the protection of critical infrastructure. The Directorate has also identified common gaps, trends and challenges in implementing advance passenger information systems, countering violent extremism and counter-messaging, and has integrated ICT, the gender dimension and human rights aspects into its work pursuant to the Council resolutions.

25. The Executive Directorate has also produced three analytical reports on foreign terrorist fighters (drafted jointly with the Monitoring Team of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015)) and five reports of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 2253 (2015), prepared global implementation surveys on the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), developed a framework on counter-messaging (which served as the basis for Council resolution 2354 (2017)), drafted the guiding principles on stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters and identified good practices relevant to the recently adopted resolutions and incorporated them into its updated technical guide. At the request of the Committee, it has also provided numerous policy papers on various emerging issues and trends.

26. Like its ongoing assessment work, the Executive Directorate's analysis and expertise play an important role in supporting the efforts of the Committee and the Council to identify good practices, gaps, challenges, trends, developments and emerging priorities.

27. The Executive Directorate's analysis of challenges, gaps, trends and developments is unique. Anchored in its assessments, its analysis is enhanced by its dialogue with Member States and with its extensive network of partners, including international and regional organizations, civil society, the members of the Global Counter-Terrorism Research Network and the private sector. It is informed and enhanced by a wealth of data and expertise. Its analysis also integrates key cross-cutting issues, including human rights, ICT and gender, which are mainstreamed throughout all its activities.

28. The analytical products requested by the Committee and the Council serve many purposes. They assist the Committee and the Council to determine where to focus their attention, both regionally and thematically, within the framework of the relevant resolutions, enhance the quality and depth of the Committee's assessment visits, provide Member States with practical ways to implement key elements of the resolutions, enable the Executive Directorate to facilitate the delivery of technical

assistance programmes that go beyond a specific country or a region and help to ensure that assistance programmes address the latest gaps, challenges, trends and developments. I am confident that the Directorate's analysis will continue to facilitate effective implementation of the relevant resolutions.

29. The Executive Directorate will continue to share its assessment and analysis through special meetings, open briefings, open meetings and dialogue with Member States, United Nations entities, experts, international, regional and subregional organizations and other relevant stakeholders. However, much more can be done to ensure that United Nations bodies and international, regional and subregional organizations continue to draw on the Directorate's assessment, analysis and expertise. Council resolutions 2129 (2013), 2185 (2014) and 2195 (2014) and the Council's presidential statement of 19 November 2014 (S/PRST/2014/23) notably encourage the Directorate to enhance its dialogue and information-sharing with special envoys and the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, including during the planning of missions, as appropriate, in relation to the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005).

30. The sharing of information through these various forums is essential. In view of the expertise available within the Executive Directorate, the Committee may wish to consider exploring further mechanisms for maximizing coordination and synergies between the Directorate and other United Nations bodies. Those mechanisms could include briefings on counter-terrorism issues for Security Council missions, regular briefing of the Secretary-General's special representatives, involvement of the Directorate in the planning and review of peacekeeping operations and the provision of counter-terrorism advice to United Nations Headquarters and field missions. I shall make every effort to ensure that the Directorate's assessment and analysis inform United Nations policy discussions and the development of technical assistance programmes by other United Nations entities. I would welcome the Committee's support in those endeavours. The Directorate's assessment, analysis and expertise should be a central component of multilateral counter-terrorism efforts and of the responses of Member States.

VI. Cooperation with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and other United Nations bodies

31. If the current level of cooperation and coordination between the Executive Directorate and other United Nations counter-terrorism bodies is to be maintained and enhanced, it is essential that the Directorate is supported by the Committee and the Council. Within the framework of the recently reformed United Nations counter-terrorism architecture, every effort should be made to ensure a comprehensive United Nations approach to counter-terrorism, including by ensuring that other United Nations bodies make full use of the Directorate's assessments, analysis and expertise.

32. The Committee may also wish to consider ways to ensure effective and expeditious operational coordination and cooperation with the Office of Counter-Terrorism. This coordination and cooperation is crucial to ensuring rapid delivery of assistance, on the basis of the needs identified during the Committee's assessment visits.

33. As Executive Director, I shall make every effort to strengthen this relationship, with a view to ensuring that the Executive Directorate's assessment, analysis and expertise benefit not only the Office of Counter-Terrorism but also all other relevant United Nations bodies, in all areas of their work. The Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism and I have already held several fruitful meetings and we shall

continue to work closely together to ensure effective and proactive collaboration between our two Offices.

VII. Raising the Executive Directorate's profile and enhancing transparency

34. In accordance with the Committee's communications strategy, adopted in 2014, the Executive Directorate has taken a considerably more proactive approach since the previous mandate review. The Committee's online identity has been completely overhauled, including through the development of a revamped website and through expanded presence on social media. Exposure through traditional media has also increased considerably.

35. In view of the rapidly evolving terrorism landscape, and in light of the recent reform of the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture, I believe that there is a need to elevate the profile of the Committee and the Executive Directorate, both internally and externally. We should enhance our communication and outreach activities in order to raise awareness and understanding of the role and functions of the Committee and the Directorate, their relationships and interaction with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, the division of labour among Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force entities and the added value of the United Nations to the global counter-terrorism effort.

VIII. Structure and resources of the Executive Directorate

36. Since the Executive Directorate was established in 2004, its operating environment (including the nature of the global terrorist threat, the United Nations institutional structure and the expectations of Member States) has been dramatically transformed. Moreover, the Executive Directorate's mandate has been significantly deepened and broadened since 2004. The recent establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism also requires that the Executive Directorate allocate additional resources in support of the Task Force working groups and in support of efforts to strengthen coordination of the United Nations response to terrorism. If the Directorate is to continue to provide the Committee with rigorous assessment and analysis, ensure effective and thorough follow-up to the Committee's recommendations, meet the expectations of Member States for rapid delivery of technical assistance and ensure effective cooperation, both within the United Nations and with implementing partners, it must significantly enhance its resources and expertise in all areas covered by the relevant resolutions. The Committee may therefore wish to consider reviewing the Directorate's current staffing and resource levels within the framework of the Council's review process.

37. A stronger, more dynamic and better-equipped Executive Directorate can serve only to strengthen the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations and of Member States. I wish to assure the Committee of my full support during the review process and I remain at the Committee's disposal to provide further suggestions for its consideration, if required.